

# Church of God, The Eternal

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## Announcement Letter February 2000

Dear Brethren:

Now that it appears the arrival of the new millennium (as man calculates it) was anticlimatic at best, the peoples of this world are left to scramble for some new future expectation. Those inclined toward prophetic interpretation will quickly regroup and develop yet a new scheme for explaining future events, and those uncomfortable with the unknown will continue to gullibly accept presumptive assertions to feed their insatiable desire for special knowledge. At the same time, those predisposed to hedonism will be strengthened in the embarrassment of the doomsayers with renewed confidence that all things continue as before. In each case we are witnessing the reactions of deceived human beings who do not understand the purposeful plan God is executing in these last days. Have we also been prone at times to embrace the sensationalistic interpretations and prognostications of the deceived?

If only we would believe what Christ said. "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be"(Matthew 24:36–39). Notice also, "Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not" (Luke 12:40). This tells us plainly that in spite of man's desire to figure out the timing of God's plan, he will never do so—not even accidentally. God will not allow any human being to garner accolades for deciphering His divine prophecies. When those events finally do begin to occur, God and God alone will take the credit.

As those called to be firstfruits in His Kingdom, we are admonished to work urgently in preparation for the return of Christ. That preparation however is not the seeking of sensational prophetic knowledge or bunkering to save ourselves physically. Instead, we are to labor in crucifying self and developing the faith needed to stand firm when the monumental works of God will ultimately come suddenly upon us all. Only true faith will give us confidence in that day. As we move into this new millennium, are we properly focused on the spiritual task at hand? We can have absolute confidence if we heed the

instructions of Jesus Christ and trust Him implicitly. With this orientation we will never be troubled by the presumptive speculations of men, or by the sudden and ultimate fulfillment of God's plan in His appointed times.

## Deaths

Mr. Besson: We are saddened by the death of Mr. Claude Besson. He died Monday evening, January 17, 2000, after suffering long from cancer. He was 53 years of age. We extend our condolences to his family. The following letter he wrote to Mr. and Mrs. Aviolat just prior to his death was so inspirational, we decided to share it here with all the brethren.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Aviolat:

I hasten to thank you one more time for this beautiful Sabbath day which we had the honor and the joy to share with you. It was a wonderful day, and I would have never dared think that God would grant me this privilege yet before our Lord delivers me from this body of death. How great are His goodness and His mercy! That is why I am confident that He will deliver me yet, before that great day, from all that which pollutes and disturbs my wretched human mind.

I hope that for you everything is going for the best in this world which is saturated with evil spirits. And I look forward to the day when we will be all reunited, forever, in the promise of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Please convey our warmest greetings to Jean-David and Stephanie, tell them how often we think of them.

I kiss you with brotherly love with all my heart, hoping to see you again if such is the will of God.

Kindest regards, thanks and greetings from Betty [his caregiver].

Claude Besson

Mr-s. Ken Bowman: Anna Marie Layton (daughter of Ken and Verna Bowman) would like, on behalf of the Bowman family, to sincerely thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy concerning the deaths of Ken and Verna. Anna Marie was unable to send many personal thank you cards because of incorrect addresses, so she has asked us to publish their thanks to you all in this *Announcement Letter*.

## Trip Schedule

February 26	Jefferson City	J.W.B.
March 25	Knoxville	J.W.B.

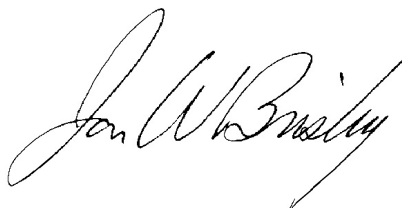
## Tape Schedule

<u>Tape Series</u>	<u>Mailed</u>	<u>Played</u>	<u>Title/Tape #</u>
WSE-RC 90-23	01-19-00	02-19-00	An Analysis of Jude #23
WSE-JB 24	01-19-00	02-26-00	Pre-Passover Evaluation
WSE-RC 92-7	02-02-00	03-04-00	What is Essential for Eternal Life? #7
WSE-JB 17-4	02-02-00	03-11-00	Fund. of Belief #2 (Jesus Christ: God, Man, Creator)

In Christ's service,



Raymond C. Cole



Jon W. Brisby